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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

JACOBUS W. VALLEN

Serial No. 09/224,913

Filed: January 4, 1999

Title: ELECTRIC BALLAST

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Atty. Docket

PHN 16,749

Group Art Unit: 2832

Examiner: T. Nguyen



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PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.181

Sir:

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.181, to direct the Examiner to provide Applicant with an Advisory Action explaining the present position of the Patent and Trademark Office in relation to the rejection of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Final Rejection dated August 29, 2000 in this application rejected claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicant filed an amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 on October 16, 2000 which amended claims 4 and 5 so as to avoid the "112" rejection of these claims. Applicant further argued that the "112" rejection of claims 3-5, based upon the term "substantially", was improper.

An Advisory Action dated November 3, 2000 entered Applicant's amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, but did not indicate whether or not the amendment overcame one or more of the rejections of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant therefore requests that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks direct the Examiner to forward to Applicant a new Advisory Action that clearly explains the present position of the Patent and Trademark Office as to the "112" rejection of claims 3-5. If the Advisory Action maintains the "112" rejection as to one or more of these claims, it is further requested that the Advisory Action explain why the aforesaid amendment does not overcome this ground of rejection as to such claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By Bernard Franzblau  
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November 9, 2000

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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By Bernard Franzblau  
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